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Advisory Board Appointed For Homeland Security Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center

Evanston, Ill., (December 8, 2005) – The Homeland Security Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center (HSIEC) at Northwestern University, formed to catalyze the development of home defense and security technologies, products and services, has announced the formation of its Advisory Board. Comprised of scientists, homeland security, and transportation and logistics specialists, the Advisory Board will help HSIEC achieve its goal to be a positive force in Illinois' economic growth.

"HSIEC Advisory Board members bring a wealth of wisdom and experience to the Center that will enable us to bring companies to commercialization faster," said Bret Johnson, director of HSIEC. "I look forward to working with this talented group."

Members of the Advisory Board include:

Steve Beitler, Senior Managing Director, Dunrath Capital

Jeffrey J. Consdorf, Director IRCM Engineering Projects, Northrop-Grumman Corporation

Thomas Ewing, PhD, Associate Division Director, Applied Science and Technology/National Security Directorate, Argonne National Laboratory

Douglas Hofmeister, Partner, Accenture Corporation

Julie Kabous, Director of Government Affairs, Motorola

Peter Lejeune, Vice President, Combating Terrorism, L3 Communications Titan Corporation

Tom Livingston, Resident Vice President, CSX Transportation

Alfred Messina, Vice President, Sensis Corporation

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Chad Mirkin, George B. Rathmann Professor of Chemistry, Northwestern University

Cindy Paulauskas, Director, Government and Industry Relations, Navteq Corporation

Dan Spellman, Vice President, Caterpillar Logistics Services, Inc.

Tom Tobin, Vice President of R&D, S&C Electric Company

Ira Uslander, Director, Office of Industry Relations, McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science, Northwestern University

HSIEC was formed through a strategic partnership between the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), the Illinois Technology Enterprise Center (ITEC) in Evanston and Northwestern University. The Center launched in October 2005 with \$350,000 in Opportunity Returns support provided by Gov. Rod R. Blagojevich. Entrepreneurs supported by the Center will receive important business services including management assistance and coaching, product development and technology commercialization advice, market intelligence and access to angel and venture capital. The Center also will extend business investments to help Illinois companies bring more innovative products to market, and create jobs by leveraging Illinois Entrepreneurship Network Challenge Grants. These grants provide \$5,000 in matching funds to help small businesses.

"Gov. Blagojevich understands that businesses often need a critical boost before they can start offering a new product, and the Homeland Security Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center will be an excellent resource to help remove barriers or red tape to make entrepreneurial dreams a reality. Whether market intelligence, product development advice or venture capital are needed, the HSIEC Advisory Board and the Center's experienced staff can help Illinois entrepreneurs to overcome these hurdles," DCEO Director Jack Lavin said.

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